

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 11610 22213Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OAS, VE

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEBATE ON QUITO OAS MEETING

REF: CARACAS 11510

1. ACTIVE DEBATE HAS CONTINUED THIS WEEK ON THE QUITO CONFERENCE AND RECOGNITION OF CUBA. SEVERAL DEPUTIES SPOKE AT LENGTH IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT HAS BEEN ASKED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE AND BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY TO REPORT ON THE GOV'S HANDLING OF THE QUITO CONFERENCE.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF DEBATE THIS WEEK IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, AD DEPUTY LUIS ESTEBAN REY SAID THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CUBA WAS THE RESULT OF A "PACT" WHICH FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON MADE WITH PRESIDENT FORD BEFORE LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE AND REFLECTED THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S "VERY PERSONAL OPPOSITION" TOWARD RECOGNITION OF CASTOR'S REGIME. HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE IS "A GROUP OF EXPERTS" IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT CONSIDERS IT "ABSURD" TO CONTINUE THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST HAVANA AND THAT MANY U.S. CONGRESSMEN WISH TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH CUBA. DEPUTY ROMULO HENRIQUEZ OF THE MOVIMIENTO IZQUIERDISTA REVOLUCIONARIO (MIR) CALLED FOR THE

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DENUNCIATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL

ASSISTANCE AND ASKED THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER
STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF SUSPENDING THE ACTIVITY OF THE U.S.
MILITARY GROUP IN VENEZUELA.

3. COMMENT: MOST OF THE CRITICISM IN THE DEBATE THUS FAR APPEARS
TO HAVE FOCUSED MORE ON SCHACHT'S HANDLING OF THE QUITO CONFERENCE
THAN ON THE U.S. POSITION.
MCCLINTOCK

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